

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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November 17, 1997

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 97-44

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Ref.: Article 6, and Section 50273, Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR)

The purpose of this letter is to inform county welfare departments about the implementation of the Specialty Mental Health Services Consolidation Program. This program will affect Medi-Cal beneficiaries currently in need or receiving professional mental health services in outpatient clinic, inpatient hospital, nursing facility, home and community settings. Every Medi-Cal beneficiary will be automatively enrolled in the Mental Health Plans and is eligible for mental health services.

The five counties (Alameda, Kern, Placer, San Joaquin, and Riverside) will implement their Mental Health Plans on November 1, 1997. The remaining counties are to implement this Speciality Mental Health Program on January 1, 1998 with the exception of Los Angeles and San Diego scheduled for April of 1998.

A sample of the notice and a copy of the Provider Bulletin being sent to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries and Medi-Cal providers in those counties are enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elena Lara of my staff at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

Notice to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries
about
Mental Health Benefits

The Medi-Cal program is changing the way people with Medi-Cal, including children, adults and older adults, receive mental health services in California. This change will happen in San Joaquin County on November 1, 1997.

Instead of people with Medi-Cal finding their own psychiatrist or therapist when they need mental health services from these kinds of providers, they will go to a mental health plan in each county for services. Mental health plans are managed care plans for mental health services. Mental health plans have already been providing people with Medi-Cal with mental health services in hospitals since 1995.

The mental health plan in San Joaquin County is San Joaquin County Mental Health Plan. Their address is 1212 North California Street, Stockton, California 95202. The toll-free number is 888-468-9370.

Most services will have to be approved ahead of time by the mental health plan before the psychiatrist or therapist can get paid for the service by Medi-Cal. This is a change from the regular Medi-Cal program. Approval by the mental health plan can happen quickly if a person needs mental health services right away. If a person needs to be admitted to a hospital for emergency mental health treatment, the hospital services do not have to be approved ahead of time.

When people with Medi-Cal think they may need mental health services, they should contact either their family doctor or the mental health plan. For most people with Medi-Cal currently receiving services from the county mental health system, there will be no change in how they get services. People with Medi-Cal currently receiving services from other psychiatrists or therapists should contact the psychiatrist, therapist, or mental health plan to make sure that needed services are approved.

People may call the mental health plan's toll-free number to get information about the mental health plan's services, including how people may get mental health services and what to do if they are unhappy about the services. The mental health plan has a brochure that also has that information. You may call the mental health plan to ask for a brochure or to ask for a list of the mental health plan's psychiatrists, therapists, and clinics.

This change does not affect your rights under Medi-Cal. People who believe they need services still have access to the county patients' rights advocate if they are concerned about their treatment. People with Medi-Cal will also have a right to submit a grievance to the mental health plan. People also have the right to request a Fair Hearing from the State within 90 days if they have a problem with denial, reduction, or termination of mental health services.

Specialty Mental Health Services Consolidation Program Implementation

On November 1, 1997, the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) will be implementing the Specialty Mental Health Services Consolidation Program for Medi-Cal recipients currently receiving or in need of professional mental health services in outpatient, clinic, inpatient hospital, nursing facility, home and community settings. This program expands the Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Services Consolidation Program that has been in existence since January 1995.

Under the consolidation program, coverage for specialty mental health services will be provided through Mental Health Plans (MHPs) in California's 58 counties. In most cases, the MHP will be the county mental health department. MHPs render, or authorize and pay for specialty mental health services. This article addresses implementation of the consolidation program in Alameda, Kern, Placer, Riverside and San Joaquin counties on November 1, 1997. Future provider bulletins will announce additional county implementations.

Specialty Mental Health Services - Codes

Specialty mental health services covered by MHPs are Medi-Cal covered services listed on *Table 1* ("HCPCS Codes") that are delivered by an appropriately licensed specialty mental health provider to a recipient with a diagnosis specified in *Table 2* ("Specialty Mental Health Diagnosis - All Places of Services Except Hospital Inpatient") or *Table 3* ("Specialty Mental Health Diagnoses - Hospital Inpatient Place of Service").

HCPCS codes covered by MHPs are:

90835 - 90899	Z0200
96100	Z0202 - Z0210
99201 - 99285	Z0300
99301 - 99376	X9500 - X9550
99450 - 99456	Z5814 - Z5816
99499	Z5820
	Z7500, Z7502

Table 1. HCPCS Codes

ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes covered by MHPs are:

295.00 - 298.9	299.1 - 300.89	301.0 - 301.6	301.8 - 301.9	302.1 - 302.6	302.8 - 302.9
307.1	307.3	307.5 - 307.89	308.0 - 309.9	311 - 313.82	313.89 - 314.9
		332.1 - 333.99	787.6		

Table 2. Specialty Mental Health Diagnoses -- All Places of Services Except Hospital Inpatient.

290.12 - 290.21	290.42 - 290.43	291.3	291.5 - 291.89	292.1- 292.12	292.84
295.00 - 299.00	299.10 - 300.15	300.2 - 300.89	301.0 - 301.5	301.59 - 301.9	307.1
307.20 - 307.3	307.5 - 307.89	308.0 - 309.9	311 - 312.23	312.33 - 312.35	312.4 - 313.23
		313.8 - 313.82	313.89 - 314.9	787.6	

Table 3. Specialty Mental Health Diagnoses -- Hospital Inpatient Place of Service.

Appropriately licensed specialty mental health providers are:

- Physicians with a psychiatric specialty designation on the Medi-Cal provider master file
- Psychologists

The following Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) supplemental services providers

- Licensed clinical social workers
- Marriage, family and child counselors
- Registered Nurses

When a service meets the preceding criteria, it is an MHP-covered service. Claims for MHP covered services that are billed to Medi-Cal will be denied.

Recipient Enrollment

Medi-Cal recipients will be enrolled automatically in the MHP serving their county. Medi-Cal recipients, starting with Alameda, Kern, Placer, San Joaquin, and Riverside counties, will receive notices informing them about the consolidation program implementation (see "Figure 1. Sample Recipient Notice," included with this article).

Recipient Eligibility

The first two digits of a recipient's Medi-Cal ID number identifies the recipient's county. The MHP in the county identified responsible for MHP-covered services for recipients in that county. In addition to confirming the recipient's county, providers must verify Medi-Cal eligibility for each month of service through the Point of Service (POS) network. This network is accessed through the POS device, Claims and Eligibility Real Time System (CERTS) software, Automated Eligibility Verification System (AEVS) and vendor-supplied software. (Please refer to *Section 100-24, Recipient Eligibility*, in your Medi-Cal provider manual for additional information.)

MHP Responsibilities

Specialty mental health services are delivered by MHPs under a federal Medicaid "freedom of choice" waiver. Each MHP has the option to:

- Contract with selected providers to deliver emergency and non-emergency services
- Establish authorization and utilization review procedures (within guidelines established by DMH).

MHPs may not restrict recipient access to emergency services. Emergency services covered by the MHP are those specialty mental health services provided to a recipient who has been admitted to a psychiatric inpatient facility in an emergency. Each MHP is required to maintain a 24-hour toll-free telephone number to facilitate authorization of specialty mental health services needed to treat recipients with conditions that, without timely intervention would result in a psychiatric inpatient hospital admission.

Non-MHP-Covered Services

The following are excluded from MHP coverage:

- Any service that does not meet the criteria previously noted in "Specialty Mental Health Services - Codes"
- California Children Services or Genetically Handicapped Persons program services
- Medicare/Medi-Cal crossover services
- Services rendered by out-of-state providers (border community providers are considered in-state providers)
- Pharmacy services
- Laboratory services
- Radiology services

When to Bill Medi-Cal

MHPs cover the services previously noted in "Specialty Mental Health Services - Codes." Standard Medi-Cal authorization and billing practices should be followed by:

- Specialty mental health providers billing specialty mental health services not covered by MHPs
- Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and other appropriately licensed providers not included in the list of providers in "Specialty Mental Health Services - Codes."

Note: Claims for MHP-covered services that are billed to Medi-Cal will be denied.

Hospital Outpatient Departments/Clinics: Claim Submission

When services are rendered in clinics and hospital outpatient departments, the determination of whether a provider is a specialty mental health provider is made by using the rendering provider number on the claim.

Clinics and hospital outpatient departments may ensure accurate Medi-Cal claim processing by:

- Including the primary diagnosis and rendering provider number on all Medi-Cal claims
- Submitting a separate claim for each rendering provider
- Submitting claims for mental health services not covered by the MHP on a separate claim form from claims for non-mental health services

All rendering providers on claims submitted to Medi-Cal by a clinic or hospital outpatient department must have a current, valid Medi-Cal provider number. All providers must be enrolled with the DHS Provider Enrollment Unit. (See provider manual *Section 100-22, Provider Participation*, for enrollment information.)

Authorization and Contact Information

Address/Telephone Number	Authorization Information
<p>Alameda County Mental Health Plan 2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400 Oakland, CA 94606</p> <p>Local Number: (510) 567-8100 Toll-Free Number: 1-800-491-9099</p>	<p>Prior review of services is required under some circumstances. Please call the toll-free phone number for information. For information about provider contracts, contact Thomas Walker at the local number.</p>
<p>Kern County Mental Health Department Post Office Box 1000 Bakersfield, CA 93302</p> <p>Local Number: (805) 868-6600 Toll-Free Number: 1-800-991-5272</p>	<p>Non-emergency services require prior authorization. For information about becoming a member of a provider panel, call Lily Alvarez at (805) 868-6000.</p>
<p>Placer County Mental Health Services 11533 C Avenue Auburn, CA 95603</p> <p>Local Number: (916) 889-6791 Toll-Free Number: 1-800-895-7479</p>	<p>Non-emergency services require prior authorization. For information about provider enrollment or assuring service for existing clients, call Maeve Hassett at (916) 889-7263.</p>
<p>Riverside County Mental Health Plan Post Office Box 7549 Riverside, CA 92513</p> <p>Local Number: (909) 358-4526 Toll-Free Number: 1-800-706-7500</p>	<p>Non-emergency services require prior authorization. For information regarding provider contracts, contact B.J. Hughes at (909) 358-4526.</p>
<p>San Joaquin County Mental Health Plan 1212 North California Street Stockton, CA 95202</p> <p>Toll-Free Number: 1-888-468-9370</p>	<p>Non-emergency services require prior authorization. For information regarding contractual arrangements and/or plans for any necessary transition of clients, call Becky Gould at (209) 468-8859.</p>

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The mental health plan in Alameda County is Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. Their address is 2000 Embarcadero Cove, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94606. The toll-free number is 1-800-491-9099.

Most services will have to be approved ahead of time by the mental health plan before the psychiatrist or therapist can get paid for the service by Medi-Cal. This is a change from the regular Medi-Cal program. Approval by the mental health plan can happen quickly if a person needs mental health services right away. If a person needs to be admitted to a hospital for emergency mental health treatment, the hospital services do not have to be approved ahead of time.

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Figure 1. Sample Recipient Notice